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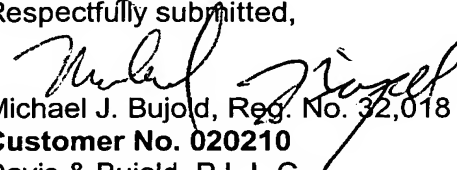
**REMARKS**

The above newly entered/amended paragraph(s) of the specification overcome some informalities noted in the specification. The undersigned avers that the newly entered/amended paragraph(s) of the specification do not contain any new subject matter.

Please consider new claims 17-34 upon consideration of this application.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. January 5, 2004.

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